Samuel DePaul suffers injuries relating to gunshot wounds in neck and chest sustained during WWII combat

Syosset NY—Tuesday, Congressman Steve Israel joined local veterans to announce retroactive benefits for $77,113.24 for Samuel DePaul. DePaul is a World War II veteran who sustained gunshot wounds to his neck and chest while in combat. DePaul had worked unsuccessfully with the VA for years before calling Congressman Israel's office. After he contacted Israel's office seeking assistance with disabilities related to those injuries, Congressman Israel was able to secure the overdue benefits.

"Samuel DePaul literally took bullets for his country during World War II," Israel said. "Yet for more than 60 years, he's had to fight for the benefits that he deserves. We can't send our troops to war one day and forget about them the next. All veterans should know that my office is here to help ensure that they are getting the support they need. Today, I am proud to present Samuel with a long overdue check for $77,113.24 in back payments that he earned in service to our nation."

DePaul was shot by sniper fire three days before the end of World War II and spent the next year in a Staten Island hospital recuperating from the wounds. The year before the sniper attack, DePaul was wounded by a hand grenade. After the war was over he went to school for printing, but ended up in retail selling produce in Brooklyn.

DePaul had been incorrectly rated on the extent of his disabilities since 1947. As a result of uncovering this error, Mr. DePaul received am award for the amount of $77,113.24 of retroactive pay dating back to May 1947.

The announcement took place at the Eugene S. Smith American Legion Post in Syosset, where Israel and DePaul were joined by other vets. Since coming to Congress, Rep. Israel has secured more than $3.8 million in back-payments for Long Island veterans.